

Harbor Dredging Project on Track for Mid-Summer

Duxbury Harbor dredging is on the fast track now that the project has been awarded to the low bidder, Weeks Marine of New Jersey.

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Harbormaster Don Beers said Tuesday that pending reference, equipment and insurance checks, there will be a pre-construction meeting with town officials, Weeks Marine, and representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers construction team prior to the beginning of work in late July or early August.

"The contractor is given 135 days to complete the federal project. I think we'll be able to work in and around the dredging because we've got a great situation with 3 local boatyards, Long Point Marine, Snug Harbor Boatworks, and Bayside Marine. They're all able to pull and move boats and moorings for us."

Weeks came in with a bid of \$1,872,500.

Work must begin within 15 days of when the contractor receives the official "notice to proceed." If the work is completed for less than the Army Corps estimate of \$2,343,000, a proportionate share of the savings will be returned to the town.

In May, Beers and Town Manager Rocco Longo went to the Army Corps of Engineers' New England headquarters in Waltham to deliver a check for \$669,454 — the town and state share of the estimated project cost.

Beers said it was 20 years ago that the harbor was last dredged. So much silt has accumulated since, that at low tide the entrance channel narrows in places to less than half its width and boats in the anchorage get hung up on the shoals.

Duxbury Clipper, Wednesday, June 5, 1996

The mile-long entrance channel will be dredged to make it 100 feet wide and at least 8 feet deep at low tide. The anchorage will be dredged to a low tide depth of 8 feet or better. Beers said right now depths range from ground zero to about 4 feet.

"For months we've been dealing with the navigation team from the Army Corps and now we're meeting with the construction people. Things are finally moving along. Everything is perfect and real soon we expect to be off and running."

An estimated 270,000 cubic yards of dredge spoil material is expected to be taken from the channel and harbor and hauled to a dump site off Wellfleet in Cape Cod Bay.

Beers said he does not anticipate that all the boats will have to be removed from the 21-acre anchorage.

"We'll have to work around the project but I think it can be done with a minimum of inconvenience. I've talked to some of the harbormasters in other towns who have been through this. They tell me you can definitely work in and around a harbor dredging project."

After working for 15 years to get the project done, Beers said he thinks any inconvenience is well worth it.